THE ULTIMATES 2

EWING • FOREMAN • BROWN

MARVEL

#3

The ultimate team has come together to solve the ultimate problems.
Blue Marvel. Spectrum. Black Panther. Captain Marvel. America Chavez.
They are...

THE ULTIMATES²

I AM *GALACTUS.* ONCE *DEVOURER OF WORLDS*--NOW THE *LIFEBRINGER,* SEEDER OF NEW PLANETS.

FIVE HEROES OF EARTH, CALLING THEMSELVES THE *ULTIMATES,* HELPED ME TO EVOLVE. AND IN A *LATER* MISSION--OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF *EVERYTHING*--

--THEY, AND I, CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF *ETERNITY IN CHAINS.* CAGED BY A MYSTERIOUS *COSMIC JAILER.*

THE TEAM LATER *DISBANDED*--INDEED, THEY ARE *MONITORED* BY A GROUP OF POWERED HUMANS, THE *TROUBLESHOOTERS,* TO MAKE SURE THEY DO NOT MEDDLE IN COSMIC AFFAIRS *AGAIN*--

--BUT I CALLED ON THEM TO AID ME IN *SOLVING* ETERNITY'S MYSTERY, ALONG WITH MY NEW HERALD, *CONNER SIMS,* THE *ANTI-MAN,* WHO I SAVED FROM THE MADNESS THAT MADE HIM A *FUGITIVE* ON EARTH.

PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. THERE ARE WHISPERS ON THE COSMIC WIND OF THE *GHOST* OF THE *SHAPER OF WORLDS,* RETURNED TO THE REALM OF THE LIVING WITH A FINAL *MESSAGE...*

HOWEVER, I HAVE PROBLEMS OF MY OWN.

THE HIGHER POWERS OF THE COSMOS--IN PARTICULAR, *MASTER ORDER* AND *LORD CHAOS*--WERE *UNHAPPY* WITH MY EVOLUTION IN THE COSMIC HIERARCHY.

THE *LIVING TRIBUNAL,* PERSONIFICATION OF MULTIVERSAL LAW, SPOKE IN MY FAVOR. REALITY HAS *DIED* AND BEEN *REBORN,* AND THUS THE HIERARCHY AS IT *WAS* NO LONGER EXISTS.

ORDER AND CHAOS TOOK THIS COUNCIL TO HEART...

...AND MURDERED THE TRIBUNAL...

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NOT SO LONG AGO.

THERE'S A *WAR* ON.

IT'S NOT A WAR BETWEEN ANY TWO *NATIONS*, OR *RELIGIONS*.

IT'S *BIGGER* THAN THAT.

IT'S THE WAR OF *SPRING* VERSUS *WINTER*.

THE WAR OF JUSTICE VERSUS *INJUSTICE*. KINDNESS VERSUS *CRUELTY*. LOVE VERSUS *FEAR*. WARM VERSUS *COLD*.

SPRING VERSUS WINTER.

KINDA *MYTHIC*, RIGHT? LIKE *LORD OF THE RINGS*. LIKE *STAR WARS*.

AND DEEP DOWN, WE ALL FIGURE WE'RE FIGHTING FOR *SPRING*, DON'T WE? WE'RE ALL THE *GOOD GUYS*.

BUT THE SEASONS *CHANGE* JUST A DAY AT A TIME. AND BEFORE WE KNOW IT, WE'RE UP TO OUR KNEES IN *SNOW*.

SO WATCH YOURSELF. *INTERROGATE* YOURSELF. EXAMINE YOUR ACTIONS *EVERY DAY*, IN *EVERY ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE*.

YOU DECIDE WHAT YOU STAND FOR-- NOBODY ELSE. *OWN* THAT.

YOU *APPLIED* FOR THIS COURSE BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO BE *THE BEST YOU CAN BE*.

THAT'S NOT *PHYSICAL*. IT'S IN YOUR *MIND*. IN YOUR *HEART*. IT'S *WAITING* FOR YOU.

YOU *CAN* BE YOUR HIGHEST SELF.

YOU CAN BE A WARRIOR FOR *SPRING*.

A *JUSTICE WARRIOR*.

LT. COL. JIM TENSEN.
RETIRED FROM ACTIVE DUTY.

"JUSTICE WARRIOR"?

SERIOUSLY, BRO?

I THOUGHT THIS WAS MEANT TO BE SOME KIND OF *BADASS UNARMED COMBAT SEMINAR.*

INSTEAD WE'RE LEARNING ABOUT *FEE-FEES* AND *SAFE SPACES* AND, I DON'T KNOW, *GANDALF...*

HEH.

WHEN I RAN GROUPS LIKE THIS FOR THE *MILITARY,* I GOT MY STUDENTS TO LISTEN BY PULLING *RANK.*

CAN'T DO THAT *HERE,* I GUESS.

MIND BEING A *TRAINING DUMMY* FOR A SECOND, SON?

DUDE, YOU'RE, LIKE, *FIFTY--*

FORTY-FIVE.

HEY, YOU *TOUCH* ME, OLD MAN, AND I'LL--

GO *LIMP,* OKAY?

AAHH--

ONE.

AND TWO.

I CALL THAT THE *SWORD* AND THE *SHIELD.*

YOU OKAY? DIDN'T HIT YOU TOO HARD, DID I?

Y-YOU'RE A *MUTIE*-- ONE OF THOSE INHUMAN *FREAKS*--

INHUMAN *PEOPLE.* AND I JUST LEARNED SOME THINGS THAT WERE THERE TO BE LEARNED, THAT'S ALL.

FIRST LESSON IS AN *OPEN MIND.* LOOK AT YOU--YOU'RE TRAPPED INSIDE YOUR OWN *IDEA* OF YOURSELF.

AND YOU CAN'T *BREATHE* IN THERE, CAN YOU?

G-GET *AWAY*--

IT'S OKAY. I *BELIEVE* IN YOU.

BREAK OPEN YOUR MIND.

JAMES?

...PHIL *VOGT.* I'LL BE DAMNED.

OKAY, KIDS, TAKE A *BREATHER.* DO SOME *STRETCHES.*

FRESH START IN AN *HOUR.*

...MONITORING AND RECONNAISSANCE, AT LEAST TO BEGIN WITH. I SUSPECT MY SUPERIORS WILL EXPAND THE REMIT.

THE BRIEF IS A TEAM OF AGENTS THAT CAN, IF *NECESSARY*, KEEP TABS ON AN *ALPHA-LEVEL SPECIAL RESPONSE GROUP* WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

"SPECIAL RESPONSE GROUP"?

A *SUPER-TEAM*, JAMES. THE *AVENGERS*, PERHAPS, OR MORE LIKELY THE *X-MEN*.

THERE ARE RUMORS *TONY STARK* IS RUNNING SOME PRIVATE GROUP OF *HEAVY HITTERS*...

YEAH, I REMEMBER WHEN *CAPTAIN HIP* WAS A MENACE TO SOCIETY. HE REALLY SHOWED US.

PHIL--I *QUIT* ALL THIS CRAP, REMEMBER?

BLACK OPS, PSYCHIC WARFARE, ALL OF IT. I AM *NO LONGER* A MEMBER OF THE *FIRST ETERNITY BATTALION*.

THAT WAS *THEN*--

AND THIS IS *NOW*.

THEY HAVE A MAN NAMED *SIMON RODSTVOW*, JAMES. HE'S...QUITE TERRIFYING. THERE ARE THOSE WHO WANT MORE *LIKE* HIM.

THEY MAY GO AHEAD *WITHOUT* ME.

I FEAR WHAT MIGHT *HAPPEN* IN THE EVENT OF... A POLITICAL *UPSET*, SHALL WE SAY.

I FEAR *WINTER*, JAMES.

...

NOW.

JAMES?

...SORRY. MILES AWAY.

YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE *ULTIMATES?*

THE TROUBLESHOOTERS.

PART OF OUR *REMIT* IS TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE NOT OPERATING AS A *TEAM* AGAIN--ACTING WITHOUT CONSULTATION ON *UNIVERSAL MATTERS.*

RECENTLY, COLONEL DANVERS AND KING T'CHALLA *LEFT* AN ALPHA FLIGHT MEETING UNDER...*SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES,* LET'S SAY.

I SUSPECT THEY MAY BE MEETING IN *SECRET.*

EVEN IF THEY *ARE*...IT'S NOT A *CRIME* TO HANG OUT WITH A *CO-WORKER,* PHIL.

NOT YET, I DON'T THINK.

PHILIP VOGT.

LT. COL. DIONNE McQUAID.

SIMON RODSTVOW.

1ST LT. KATHY LING.

DANVERS AND T'CHALLA AREN'T *FRIENDS,* KATHY. AT THE MOMENT, I'D GO SO FAR AS TO CALL THEM *ENEMIES.*

SO IF THEY *ARE* SNEAKING OFF TOGETHER, WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THEY HAVE AN EXCELLENT *REASON* TO.

THESE ARE PLAYERS AT THE *HIGHEST LEVEL,* OPERATING ON A *COSMIC SCALE.* WHAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THEM REALLY *COULD* KILL US ALL...

"...AND IT MAY HAVE ALREADY *STARTED.*"

THE SUPERFLOW.
WHERE LIVING CONCEPTS MAKE WAR.

THE LIVING TRIBUNAL.
THE LAW OF THE OMNIVERSE.
ONCE THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS IN CREATION.
NOW DEAD.

GALACTUS?

DID...THEY JUST...?

CONNER SIMS.
CODENAME: "ANTI-MAN."
COSMIC-POWERED HERALD OF GALACTUS.

LORD CHAOS.

MASTER ORDER.

MURDER IDIOT LAW! BURN ITS *LIAR'S* HEAD!

IN THE NAME OF CHAOS!

BUT OUR ACTION *ALSO* SERVES THE *HIGHER ORDER,* GALACTUS.

HAVE NO FEAR. ALL WILL BE *WELL.*

ALL MANNER OF THINGS WILL BE *WELL...*

GALACTUS.
THE LIFEBRINGER.
SEEDER OF WORLDS.

INSANITY.

THE COSMOS IS BARELY *REBORN--* THE *TRIBUNAL,* THE *PERSONIFICATION* OF LAW AND JUDGMENT, BARELY RISEN *ANEW--*

--AND YOU HAVE *MURDERED IT AGAIN!*

HAVE YOU THE *SLIGHTEST IDEA* WHAT YOU HAVE *DONE...?*

WE HAVE DONE WHAT WE KNEW WE *COULD* DO.

AS YOU SAY, THIS MULTIVERSE IS *STILL FORMING.* THE NEW *ORDER* OF THINGS IS STILL TAKING SHAPE.

THE TRIBUNAL *ITSELF* TOLD US THAT THE *OLD* HIERARCHY NO LONGER HAD *MEANING...*

NO MEANING! NO FUTURE! CHAOS! CHAOS!

THAT WAS THE PROBLEM WHEN WE FOUGHT *BEFORE,* O MIGHTY GALACTUS. WE DID NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THINGS *WERE.*

YOU HAD THE TRUTH OF IT, ALL ALONG. WE ARE NOT CONSTRAINED BY OUR *OLD ROLES...*

...AND THUS, WE ARE CAPABLE OF *ANYTHING.*

SIMS. GO.

NO!

YOU *WILL.*

YOU SAVED MY *LIFE--SAVED* ME FROM *MYSELF!*

I *WON'T* LEAVE YOU NOW--

BECAUSE YOU ARE MY HERALD AND I COMMAND IT.

WARN THE *OTHERS!*

GO!

FASCINATING. YOU PLACE THE SURVIVAL OF A *LESSER BEING* ABOVE YOUR *OWN?*

RIDICULOUS! FOOLISH!

NOT THE *TRUE* GALACTUS!

NOT THE TRUE DEVOURER!

ARRGGH--

NO...

NO.

NO MATTER *WHAT COMES--* NO MATTER WHAT YOU *DO--*

--I WILL REMAIN MYSELF!

BY ALL *MEANS,* DEVOURER.

KEEP *TELLING* YOURSELF THAT.

KADESH BASE.

UNDERSEA SCIENCE FORTRESS INSIDE THE MARIANAS TRENCH.

CURRENT HEADQUARTERS/ RESEARCH STATION OF DR. ADAM BRASHEAR, A.K.A. THE BLUE MARVEL.

ADAM ISN'T HOME.

THERE. WE'RE *IN.*

DO WE NEED TO WORRY ABOUT *SILENT ALARMS?*

ALREADY *DISABLED.*

COURTESY OF YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD *LIVING THOUGHT-FORM.*

IT'S *ALL CLEAR,* BY THE WAY. NOT A CREATURE *STIRRING,* NOT EVEN A *MOUSE.*

COL. TERRY JESSUP.

FOR *NOW.* KEEP YOUR *GUARD UP,* TEAM.

YOU GOT IT. TELEKINETIC ARMOR *ACTIVE.*

GOOD. BLUE MARVEL IS ONE OF THE MOST *POWERFUL* HEROES ALIVE, AND WE'RE *UNINVITED GUESTS.*

LET'S BE *MINDFUL.*

TERRY--CAN YOU INTERFACE WITH *THAT,* DO YOU THINK?

HARD TO SAY UNTIL I *TRY...*

SHORTING *ALARM CIRCUITS* IS *ONE* THING, BUT ACTUALLY *TALKING* TO MACHINES GETS TRICKY.

A LOT DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH *ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE* BRASHEAR HAS LOADED IN...

DO WHAT YOU CAN. WE NEED TO KNOW WHERE HE *IS.*

CURRENT LOCATION: UNKNOWN

DR. ADAM BRASHEAR

WELL, *THAT'S* OMINOUS.

...

NARROW THE *PARAMETERS.* ASK IT A SIMPLE *YES/NO QUESTION.*

IS ADAM BRASHEAR CURRENTLY IN *EARTH'S SOLAR SYSTEM?*

ANSWER: NEGATIVE.

SO HE'S ON SOME DEEP SPACE MISSION?

MAYBE.

HOW ABOUT *MONICA RAMBEAU?* WE KNOW SHE LIVES HERE NOW--IS *SHE* IN-SYSTEM?

NEGATIVE. WHICH DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN *ANYTHING.*

JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE *WORKING,* DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE WORKING WITH THE *ULTIMATES.*

NEGATIVE

OCCAM'S RAZOR, TERRY--

I *HAVE* SOMETHING.

WITH *MY* POWERS, I CAN *SEE* AND *FEEL* THINGS THAT LESSER BEINGS CAN'T. TRACE *ENERGIES.*

THERE'S AN ENERGY SIGNATURE LINGERING *HERE*-- LIKE A SCENT. SIMILAR TO ONE WE'VE *STUDIED,* BUT...

...MORE SO. MORE *POWERFUL.*

CONNER SIMS, THE *ANTI-MAN.*

IT SEEMS *BRASHEAR*--AND HIS *WOMAN*--HAVE HAD *SECRET MEETINGS* WITH AN *OMEGA-LEVEL FUGITIVE.*

STILL WANT TO SHOW *KINDNESS,* TENSEN?

...

FOLLOW THE TRAIL, RODSTVOW.

WHEREVER IT LEADS.

...

HOW VERY *STRANGE.*

HOW VERY *STUBBORN.*

THE DEVOURER SIMPLY WILL *NOT* TAKE HIS *PROPER PLACE*, DESPITE OUR MOST POWERFUL... *ARGUMENTS.*

DESPITE PAIN! DESPITE AGONY!

HE REFUSES TO KILL AGAIN!

I...*HAVE* A PLACE, ORDER. I HAVE A *DUTY.*

A DUTY TO *ETERNITY.*

AND I WILL *NOT*... *FAIL* HIM...

LIAR! THE TRIBUNAL IS *DEAD!* THERE ARE NO DUTIES!

THERE IS NO LAW!

NO LAW!

...YES. YES, OF *COURSE.*

AND THEREIN LIES THE *PROBLEM.*

IF THERE IS NO LONGER A *LAW*-- NO LONGER A *HIERARCHY* AMONG THE COSMIC BEINGS--

--THEN WE HAVE NO *LESS* POWER THAN THE REBEL GALACTUS, BUT NO *MORE*, EITHER.

WE CANNOT *PERMANENTLY* IMPOSE OUR WILL ON HIM.

THAT WILL NOT *DO*. A *NEW* HIERARCHY MUST BE CREATED--AND *MAINTAINED*.

A NEW *STATUS QUO*...

BUT... SWEET *CHAOS*...

...CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT *ORDER*, BROTHER.

JUST AS *GOOD* CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT *EVIL*, OR A *FACT* EXIST WITHOUT A BALANCING *FICTION*.

DO YOU *DOUBT* THAT?

DO NOT *KNOW*

YOU ARE *CONFUSED*, BROTHER-- THAT IS YOUR *NATURE*. YOUR *WEAKNESS*.

BUT I AM *ALWAYS* HERE TO *GUIDE* YOU.

COME. LET US *LEAVE* THIS PLACE...

...AND BEGIN OUR *WORK*.

ORDER-- WAIT--

TOO LATE.

WARN THEM, MY HERALD.

WARN THEM *ALL*.

I FEAR...

"...THAT THE WAR HAS JUST BEGUN..."

WARN HIM!

THEY'RE OUT THERE! ON THE FAR SHORE! THE ONE...THE OTHERS!

SO BIG... SO BIG THERE ARE NO WORDS...

THE SHAPER'S GHOST. LAST REMNANTS OF A SENTIENT COSMIC CUBE.

HE'S STILL NOT MAKING MUCH SENSE--

GALACTUS' WORLD-SHIP, TAA II. A HUMAN-SCALE COSMIC LABORATORY CONSTRUCTED FOR THE ULTIMATES.

--AND BELIEVE ME, I'M LISTENING.

I WAS HOPING THIS "COSMIC AWARENESS" POWER ADAM MENTIONED COULD UNLOCK SOMETHING, SOME SECRET, BUT...NO DICE.

KEEP AT IT, MONICA.

UNTIL GALACTUS GETS BACK FROM THE SUPERFLOW, YOU'RE OUR BEST SHOT AT FINDING OUT WHAT THE SHAPER'S GHOST CAME HERE FOR...

DR. ADAM BRASHEAR. CODENAME: "BLUE MARVEL."

MONICA RAMBEAU. CODENAME: "SPECTRUM."

T'CHALLA OF WAKANDA. ROYAL TITLE: "BLACK PANTHER."

AMERICA CHAVEZ.

COL. CAROL DANVERS. CODENAME: "CAPTAIN MARVEL."

ON THAT TOPIC--

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR CONNECTION TO THE LIFEBRINGER, AMERICA...

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT T'CHALLA'S GOT A POINT.

YOU'VE GOT THE MOST MULTIVERSAL EXPERIENCE OF ANY OF US, MAC. YOU'VE BEEN DOING THIS YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

IT'S PRETTY CLEAR THE ULTIMATES NEED SOMEONE IN A LEADERSHIP ROLE, AND IF THAT'S YOU, I'VE NO COMPLAINTS.

BUT IF IT'S GALACTUS...

WELL, YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THAT.

...

THAT'S *FAIR*, I GUESS. *I'D* BE SUSPICIOUS, TOO.

BUT WE ALL KNOW WHY WE'RE *HERE*--ON THE *WORLD-SHIP.*

WE ALL CAUGHT A *GLIMPSE* OF SOMETHING, OUTSIDE REALITY. SOMETHING *WRONG. HORRIFIC.*

EVERYTHING THAT IS, IN *CHAINS. CAGED.* BEING *FED* ON.

NOBODY'S DOING ANYTHING *ABOUT* THAT. AND NOBODY *CAN*--NOBODY CAN EVEN HOLD IT IN THEIR *HEADS*--EXCEPT *GALACTUS.*

SO, *SURE*, I'M *WORKING* WITH HIM. AND I WANT *YOU*--THE PEOPLE WHO *KNOW*--WORKING WITH *ME.*

ALL RIGHT, MAC. FOR *NOW.*

THAT *SAID*, I NEED TO GET BACK TO ALPHA FLIGHT BEFORE I'M *MISSED*, SO...

I'VE GOT YOU.

PORTAL EXPRESS, STRAIGHT TO--

HOLY--

MY GOD-- CONNER?

HAD TO FIND...A WAY BACK INTO THE PHYSICAL WORLD...

USED THE PORTAL AS A SHORTCUT...

GALACTUS IS UNDER SIEGE-- THEY'RE TRYING TO--TO CHANGE HIM BACK--

--MAKE HIM HUNGRY AGAIN--

WHAT?

LIE STILL, CONNER. I'VE GOT YOU.

ONCE WE GET YOU STABILIZED, WE CAN...

...

MAC?

THAT'S NOT ONE OF YOURS, IS IT?

AND THERE HE IS...

CONNER SIMS? I'M LT. COL. JAMES TENSEN, AND THESE ARE THE TROUBLESHOOTERS.

WE'RE HERE TO TAKE YOU IN.

MANCUSO-IV.
ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE.

THE IN-BETWEENER IS HERE.
SERVANT OF CHAOS AND ORDER.

AND A CERTAIN BUTTERFLY.

WHEN IT NEXT FLAPS ITS WINGS, IT WILL CAUSE A STORM HALFWAY ACROSS THIS WORLD.

THIS WILL CHANGE THE OUTCOME OF A BATTLE--
AND, EVENTUALLY, A WAR.

THE DESCENDANTS OF THE WINNERS WILL ONE DAY LEAVE THIS PLANET AND SPREAD ORDER THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY.

ALL BECAUSE OF ONE BUTTERFLY.

IT IS THE IN-BETWEENER'S TASK TO PERSONIFY--
AND MAINTAIN--
THE DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN ORDER AND CHAOS.

GREETINGS.

OUR GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

...MASTER ORDER?

AS LONG AS IT EXISTS.

FOR NOW.

WE CREATED YOU AS THE RECONCILIATION OF *OPPOSITES*, IN-BETWEENER. THE *MIDPOINT* BETWEEN DICHOTOMIES.

YOU HAVE PERFORMED A GREAT MANY DUTIES FOR US IN THAT ROLE.

WE WOULD ASK...*ONE MORE...*

WHAT?

MASTER ORDER--YOU ARE *CLEARLY* OUT OF BALANCE WITH YOUR BROTHER. ALLOW ME TO--

DIE!

DIE AND BE ABSORBED INTO CHAOS!

NO!

LORD CHAOS--*STOP!* THE BALANCE *DEPENDS* ON--

--COMBINING OUR FORCES.

AND *YOU* WILL BE THE GLUE THAT *BINDS* US, IN-BETWEENER.

STOP!

PLEASE--

THE *CATALYST* FOR OUR MERGER--

--INTO ONE!

FOR I AM THE *NEW ORDER!* THE *NEW LAW THAT BINDS ALL THINGS!*

I AM--

LOGOS!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS THE ULTIMATES² IN...

BAD MOON RISING

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THE ULTI-MAILS

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM (MARK "OKAY TO PRINT")

Greetings, Ulti-Mates! Al Ewing here, answering another batch of your letters. Mark them OKAY TO PRINT and send them to mheroes@marvel.com, and we'll print the best! We've got a lot to get through this time, so I'm going to keep the intro short and just dive in...

Wow.
Wow.
Wow.

Fantastic start to "Season 2." I was a HUGE fan of "Season 1" and can't wait to see what you have in store. The last page of things to come made me so excited I could cry...literally cry...right now, just thinking of all the awesome that's on the way. The book moved fluidly, and dare I say that "Season 2" of THE ULTIMATES will be better than the first one???

I think this could be equivalent to *The Godfather* and *The Godfather Part II*. I believe in this team's ability to make this, yet again, the book of the year. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Nicholas Ricci
Boston, MA

Thanks for the kind words, Nicholas! We've got some big plans for the coming year--cosmically big--and I'm pretty confident we can meet your expectations.

Soooo excited about ULTIMATES^2. Can't remember, thinking back, another comic on such a cosmic scale. And Travel Foreman's realization and character sketches of America Chavez are mind-blowing. Think this will be a mind-expanding ride. Bring it, people.

Darren Scrowston
Leeds, England

We will bring it gift-wrapped, Darren! That reminds me, I need to pop down to Leeds to visit the Xmas market. Do they still have that animatronic plastic reindeer head?

Arrrrr, Ulti-Mateys (pirate-theme, for some reason, sorry), you have actually topped yourselves with ULTIMATES^2!

I love THE ULTIMATES, and was, admittedly, rather annoyed with yet another #1. Why annoyed? I admit it, I am old-school: 41 years old and collecting since I was twelve, with a collection of just shy of 13,000 comics, 90% of which are Marvel. That old-school mentality means I don't truly understand the neverending plethora of #1's, other than making it more accessible for new readers...Ugh, okay, so I get it, I get it. Couldn't you go the route of the dual numbering system, though? Showing the overall issue of the comic a bit smaller in brackets, maybe, for us long-timers? You did it with FF for a while...

Anyway, numbering aside, I was pumped over and over throughout this book. The initial pages depicting Eternity chained--GREAT cosmic visuals to kick things off and remind everyone of the stakes. I HEARD T'Challa speaking in a perfect first-date dork voice before Carol told him it was flawless. The redesign of Anti-Man is excellent, and he and the team serving as heralds for a new kinder, gentler Galactus is a great turn. OH, and the palette-swap line by Carol describing the reticence to follow Galactus...great comedy in the midst of heavy cosmic shenanigans, man.

I can't say enough how much I look forward to this book...keep 'em coming, and I shall remain Ultimately yours...

Blair Bush

Thanks! We admit it--we're going all in on the "seasonal model" with this series, new #1 and all. Partly, that's because the ULTIMATES name gives us permission to do that--it feels almost traditional to follow an "ULTIMATES" with an "ULTIMATES^2." But what does everyone else think? After this year, do we go to ULTIMATES^3? Send us your thoughts! And glad you dug the rest of the book, Blair!

First and foremost, I happily confess this is my first "letter to the editor" ever, and I've been reading comics since 1994! I say this to illustrate how big of a deal this book is to me. Let me also admit to being an avid reader of THE ULTIMATES since day one of ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT! I took a chance on a book I had no prior knowledge of or expectations for (something more readers should do, frankly) and was beyond impressed! I now savor every panel of Kenneth Rocafort and Travel Foreman's sumptuous, crystal-clear artwork when a new issue comes out! Their masterful art is only enhanced further by Al Ewing and a level of quality storytelling--tackling elements of the Marvel Universe rarely dealt with now outside of the defunct but legendary FANTASTIC FOUR/FUTURE FOUNDATION titles.

Thank you for filling a void that incredibly needed to be filled: intelligent, cosmic, science-based sci-fi stories with exploration/adventure elements! Books about traditional super hero battles and fight-heavy derring-do are a needed staple of the comic book industry, but having a team book with such a compelling roster of characters tackling complex questions of hard science fiction makes ULTIMATES^2 my favorite team book being published at Marvel! It didn't hurt that you populated the book with three of my all-time favorite characters (T'Challa, Carol Danvers and Dr. Adam Brashear), and you are also using them in unique, dramatic ways! ULTIMATES has become my #1 go-to answer when asked what book series I'd love to see adapted to live action (film or TV) next. I'm curious with this new "season," what were the thoughts behind some of the newly-remodeled character designs? Please keep up the great work, because you all have truly created an "Ultimate" fan for life! Cheers!

Langley M. Neely
Chicago, Illinois

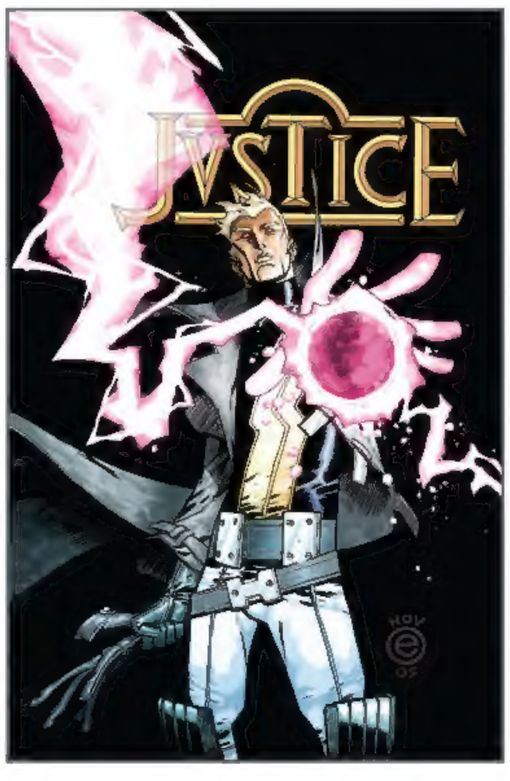
P.S. The advent of Luke Charles, *Stranger Things* fan, in the first issue is by far the funniest and greatest T'Challa moment of the entire year, and I adore/read Ta-Nehisi Coates' current BLACK PANTHER run on the regular! LOL!

Thank you, Langley! Luke Charles has a lot of fans already--he was actually the first bit of ULTIMATES^2 #1 that I thought of, and the "key" that let me into the rest. So I'm a big fan too. (Also a big fan of BLACK PANTHER the comic--Ta-Nehisi's on fire.)

Al

ADDITIONAL READING:

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT TENSEN'S NEW UNIVERSE COUNTERPART, CHECK OUT *NEW UNIVERSE: JUSTICE*, AND FOR THE IN-BETWEENER'S FIRST APPEARANCE, READ *WARLOCK #9*. BOTH ARE AVAILABLE DIGITALLY ON COMICSTORE.MARVEL.COM.



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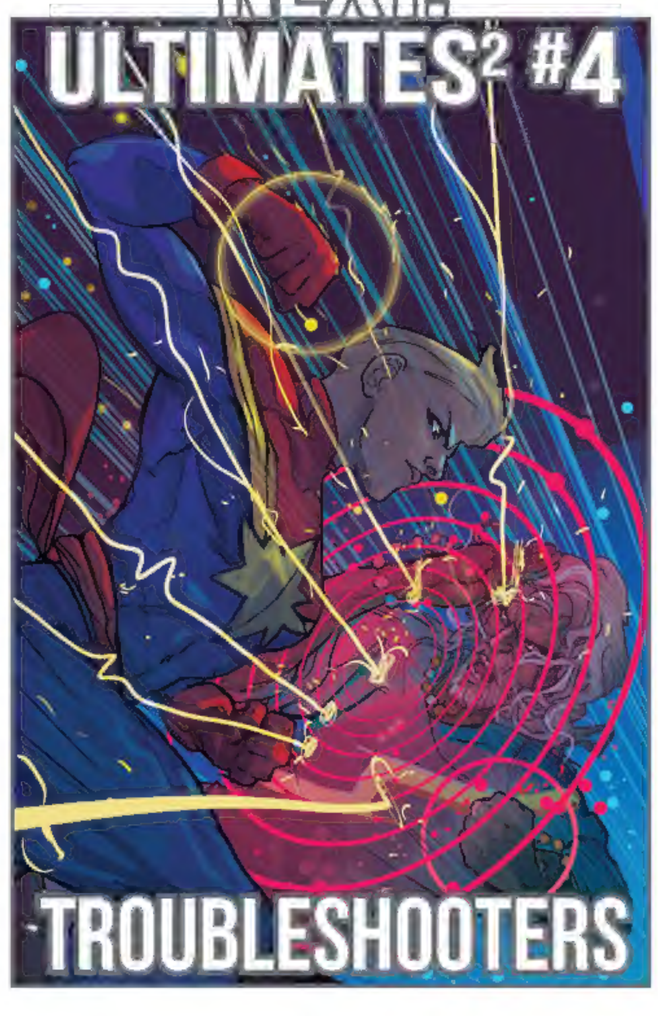

ZONE